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(11) **EP 1 174 621 A1**

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

published in accordance with Art. 158(3) EPC

(43) Date of publication:

23.01.2002 Bulletin 2002/04

(51) Int Cl.7: **F04C 18/16, F04C 29/04**

(21) Application number: 01953022.9

(86) International application number:
PCT/JP01/00511

(22) Date of filing: 26.01.2001

(87) International publication number:
WO 01/61194 (23.08.2001 Gazette 2001/34)

(84) Designated Contracting States:

**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR**

(30) Priority: 17.02.2000 JP 2000039453

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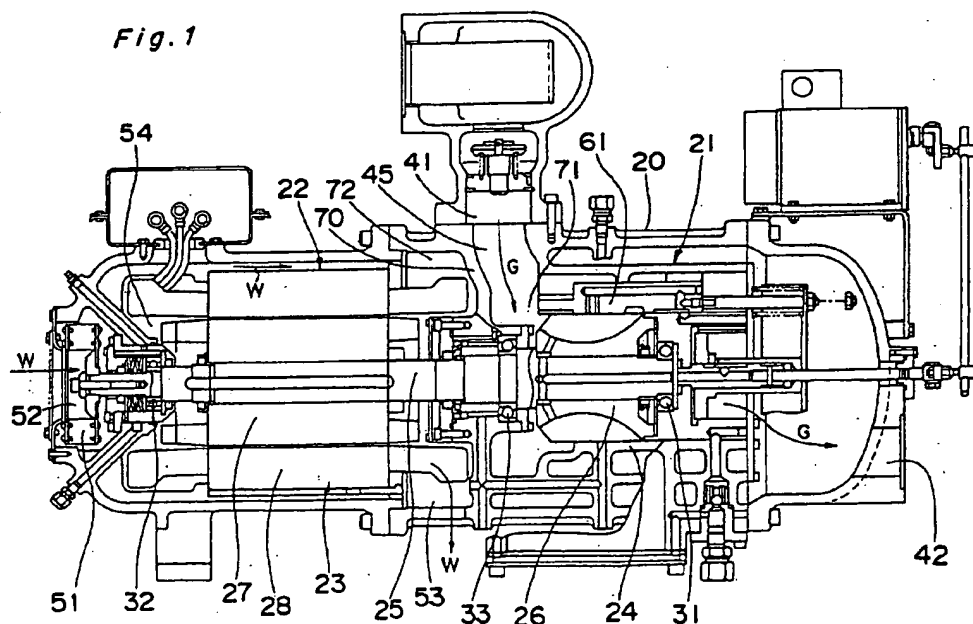
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(54) **SCREW COMPRESSOR**

(57) There is provided a screw compressor which needs neither a belt nor a coupling, therefore not involving alignment, and yet in which gas is not heated by the motor. The screw compressor has a compression section 21 and a motor section 22 inside a casing 20. Both a rotor 27 of a motor 23 and a screw 26 of the compres-

sion section 21 are fixed to one main shaft 25. The main shaft 25 is supported at three points by a total of three bearings of both-end rolling bearings 31, 32 and a central rolling bearing 33. A refrigerant passage 45 passes only through the compression section 21 and not through the motor section 22.

Fig. 1



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Description

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a screw compressor for compressing a gas such as a refrigerant.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] Semi-closed type screw compressors have been widely used recently. This semi-closed type screw compressor is so constructed that a motor section and a compression section are placed in a casing, with a motor shaft of the motor section and a screw shaft of the compression section provided as an integral unit, where the refrigerant is sucked into a compression section through the motor section.

[0003] However, in this semi-closed type screw compressor, since the refrigerant is sucked into the compression section through the motor section, the refrigerant is heated by the motor, causing a problem of deteriorated efficiency.

[0004] Therefore, such an open type screw compressor as shown in Fig. 2 is reviewed. This open type screw compressor assembly is so constructed that a motor 2 and a screw compressor 3 are mounted on a large-sized bed 1, while a shaft 2a of the motor 2 and a shaft 3a of the screw compressor 3 are coupled to each other with a coupling 5.

[0005] However, in this open type screw compressor, since the motor 2 and the screw compressor 3 are provided as completely separate units, the large-sized bed 1 and the coupling 5 are involved while the alignment between the shaft 2a of the motor 2 and the shaft 3a of the screw compressor 3 takes man-hours, thus resulting in a problem of quite high costs.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

[0006] Accordingly, an object of the invention is to provide a screw compressor in which the needs for the bed and the coupling are eliminated, therefore the need for alignment being also eliminated, and yet in which the gas is not heated by the motor.

[0007] In order to achieve the above object, in a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a screw compressor in which a compression section and a motor section are placed in a casing, comprising:

a gas passage passing only through the compression section; and
a main shaft to which a rotor of the motor section and a screw of the compression section are fixed.

[0008] In this screw compressor of the first aspect of the invention, since the compression section and the motor section are placed inside the casing, the casing plays the role of a bed, eliminating the need for the bed.

Further, since both the rotor of the motor section and the screw of the compression section are fixed to one main shaft, the need for the coupling of the prior art is eliminated, so that the man-hour for alignment is eliminated.

As a consequence, this screw compressor can be manufactured with low cost and can be installed simply.

[0009] Further, since the gas passage passes only through the compression section and not through the motor section, gas is never heated by the motor of the motor section. As a consequence, this screw compressor is good at compression efficiency.

[0010] In one embodiment, the main shaft is supported at three points by bearings provided at three sites of an end portion of the motor section, an end portion of the compression section and a site between the motor section and the compression section.

[0011] According to this embodiment, since the main shaft is three-point supported by the bearings provided at the three points, the number of rolling bearings involved is reduced and the assembly is also facilitated. As a consequence, this screw compressor can be manufactured with low cost.

[0012] In one embodiment, a motor-cooling air passage is provided in the casing and air blown by a fan that is driven by a motor of the motor section passes through the motor-cooling air passage.

[0013] According to this embodiment, the air blown by the fan passes through the motor-cooling air passage to cool the motor. As a consequence, coils of the motor can be prevented from elevating in temperature.

[0014] In a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a screw compressor comprising:

a casing which is internally partitioned into a first chamber and a second chamber opposed to each other;
a screw type compression section placed in the first chamber;
a motor section placed in the second chamber and having a motor for driving the compression section;
a gas passage defined in the first chamber and allowing a gas to flow from an inlet only through the compression section to an outlet; and
a motor-cooling air passage defined in the second chamber and allowing air to pass from an inlet only through the motor section to an outlet, wherein the gas passage and the motor-cooling air passage are independent from each other, and
a main shaft to which a rotor of the motor is fixed has an extended portion axially extended, and the screw of the compression section is fixed to the extended portion.

[0015] According to the screw compressor of the second aspect of the invention, since the compression section and the motor section are placed in the first chamber and the second chamber, respectively, defined in the casing, the casing plays the role of a bed, eliminating

the need for the bed. Also, since both the rotor of the motor section and the screw of the compression section are fixed to one main shaft, the need for the coupling of the prior art is eliminated, so that the man-hour for alignment is also eliminated. As a consequence, this screw compressor can be manufactured with low cost, and can be installed simply.

[0016] Further, since the gas passage passes only through the compression section and not through the motor section, gas is never heated by the motor of the motor section. As a consequence, this screw compressor is good at compression efficiency.

[0017] One embodiment further comprises a fan driven by the motor provided at a vicinity of the inlet of the motor-cooling air passage, wherein air blown by the fan is allowed to flow to the motor-cooling air passage.

[0018] According to this embodiment, the air blown by the fan passes through the motor-cooling air passage to cool the motor. As a consequence, coils of the motor can be prevented from elevating in temperature.

[0019] In one embodiment, the screw of the compression section is a single screw.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020]

Fig. 1 is a sectional view of a screw compressor according to an embodiment of the invention; and Fig. 2 is a front view of a screw compressor assembly according to the prior art.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0021] Hereinbelow, the present invention is described in detail by way of an embodiment thereof illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

[0022] As shown in Fig. 1, this screw compressor has a casing 20 partitioned by a partitioning wall 70 into a first chamber 71 and a second chamber 72 opposed to each other. A compression section 21 is placed in this first chamber 71, and a motor section 22 is placed in the second chamber 72, respectively. In the compression section 21, a screw 26 fixed to an end portion of a main shaft 25 is rotatably fitted into a cylinder 24 formed integral with the casing 20. A rotor 27 of a motor 23 in the motor section 22 is fixed at the other end portion of the main shaft 25. That is, the main shaft 25 to which the rotor 27 is fixed has an axial extended portion, to which extended portion the screw 26 is fixed. A stator 28 of the motor 23 is fixed to the casing 20.

[0023] The main shaft 25 is supported at three points of both ends and a center thereof. More specifically, an outer end side of the screw 26 of the main shaft 25 is supported by a rolling bearing 31, an outer end side of the rotor 27 of the motor 23 of the main shaft 25 is supported by a rolling bearing 32, and the main shaft 25 is supported by a rolling bearing 33 between the motor

section 22 and the compression section 21.

[0024] Also, the first chamber 71 of the casing 20 includes an inlet 41 and an outlet 42, as well as a refrigerant passage 45 as a gas passage for communicating the inlet 41 and the outlet 42 with each other. This refrigerant passage 45 passes only through the compression section 21, and not through the motor section 22, making the refrigerant gas flow as shown by arrows G.

[0025] Also, a fan 51 is fixed at an end portion of the main shaft 25 on the motor section 22 side. In the second chamber 72 of the casing 20, a motor-cooling air passage 54 is formed so as to extend from an inlet 52 to an outlet 53, so that the cooling air blown by the fan 51 located near the inlet 52 flows as shown by an arrow W, thereby cooling the motor 23. The refrigerant passage 45 and the motor-cooling air passage 54 are independent from each other. It is noted that reference numeral 61 denotes a slide valve.

[0026] In this constitution, as the main shaft 25 rotates, the refrigerant gas is compressed between the cylinder 24 and the screw 26 in the compression section 21, flowing through the refrigerant passage 45 as shown by the arrow G in Fig. 1. In this operation, since the refrigerant passage 45 passes only through the compression section 21 and not through the motor section 22, the refrigerant gas is never heated by the motor 23 of the motor section 22. As a consequence, this screw compressor is good at compression efficiency.

[0027] Also, the air blown by the fan 51 that is driven by the motor 23 passes through the motor-cooling air passage 54 as shown by the arrow W, thereby cooling the rotor 27 and the stator 28 of the motor 23. As a consequence, coils of the rotor 27 and the stator 28 of the motor 23 can be prevented from elevating in temperature, so that the reliability can be improved.

[0028] In this screw compressor, since the compression section 21 and the motor section 22 are placed in the casing 20, the casing 20 itself plays the role of a bed, eliminating the need for a bed.

[0029] Further, since both the rotor 27 of the motor 23 and the screw 26 of the compression section 21 are fixed to one main shaft 25, the need for the coupling is eliminated, so that the man-hour for alignment is eliminated. As a consequence, this screw compressor can be manufactured with low cost and can be installed simply.

[0030] Further, since the main shaft 25 is supported at three points by a total of three rolling bearings, the both-end rolling bearings 31, 32 and the central rolling bearing 33, the necessary number of rolling bearings can be reduced and the assembly is also facilitated, as compared with the conventional case of four-point support. As a consequence, this screw compressor can be manufactured with low cost.

[0031] Whereas the above embodiment has been exemplified by a single screw compressor, the present invention may also be applied to double screw compressors. In the case of a double screw compressor, al-

though two main shafts are employed, yet the case is the same in that both rotor and screw are fixed to each shaft.

[0032] Also, although the screw 26 provided separately from the main shaft 25 is fixed to this main shaft 25 in the above embodiment, the screw may also be formed integrally with the main shaft. In this case also, it is described herein that the screw is fixed to the main shaft.

[0033] Although the main shaft 25 is supported by the rolling bearings 31, 32, 33 in the above embodiment, the main shaft 25 may also be supported by plain bearings.

[0034] Further, although the screw compressor of the above embodiment is used to compress the refrigerant, yet the screw compressor of the present invention may be used for the compression of gases such as air, oxygen and nitrogen without being limited to refrigerants.

[0035] As, apparent from the above description, since the compression section and the motor section are placed inside the casing, the casing plays the role of a bed, eliminating the need for the bed. Further, since both the rotor of the motor section and the screw of the compression section are fixed to one main shaft, the need for the coupling of the prior art is eliminated, so that the man-hour for alignment is eliminated. As a consequence, this screw compressor can be manufactured with low cost and can be installed simply.

[0036] Also, according to the screw compressor of one embodiment, since the gas passage passes only through the compression section and not through the motor section, gas is never heated by the motor of the motor section. As a consequence, this screw compressor is good at compression efficiency.

[0037] Also, according to the screw compressor of one embodiment, since the main shaft is three-point supported by the bearings provided at the three points, the number of rolling bearings involved is reduced and the assembly is also facilitated. As a consequence, this screw compressor can be manufactured with low cost.

[0038] Also, according to the screw compressor of one embodiment, since air blown by the fan that is driven by the motor passes through the motor-cooling air passage to cool the motor, coils of the rotor and the stator of the motor can be prevented from elevating in temperature, so that the motor reliability can be improved.

Claims

1. A screw compressor in which a compression section (21) and a motor section (22) are placed in a casing (20), comprising:

a gas passage (45) passing only through the compression section (21); and
a main shaft (25) to which a rotor (27) of the motor section (22) and a screw (26) of the compression section (21) are fixed.

2. The screw compressor according to Claim 1, wherein the main shaft (25) is supported at three points by bearings (32, 31, 33) provided at three sites of an end portion of the motor section (22), an end portion of the compression section (21) and a site between the motor section (22) and the compression section (21).

3. The screw compressor according to Claim 1, wherein a motor-cooling air passage (54) is provided in the casing (20) and air blown by a fan (51) that is driven by a motor (23) of the motor section (22) passes through the motor-cooling air passage (54).

4. A screw compressor comprising:

a casing (20) which is internally partitioned into a first chamber (71) and a second chamber (72) opposed to each other;
a screw type compression section (21) placed in the first chamber (71);
a motor section (22) placed in the second chamber (72) and having a motor (23) for driving the compression section (21);
a gas passage (45) defined in the first chamber (71) and allowing a gas to flow from an inlet (41) only through the compression section (21) to an outlet (42); and
a motor-cooling air passage (54) defined in the second chamber (72) and allowing air to pass from an inlet (52) only through the motor section (22) to an outlet (53),

wherein

the gas passage (45) and the motor-cooling air passage (54) are independent from each other, and
a main shaft (25) to which a rotor (27) of the motor (23) is fixed has an extended portion axially extended, and the screw (26) of the compression section (21) is fixed to the extended portion.

5. The screw compressor according to claim 4, further comprising a fan (51) driven by the motor (23) provided at a vicinity of the inlet (52) of the motor-cooling air passage (54), wherein air blown by the fan (51) is allowed to flow to the motor-cooling air passage (54).

6. The screw compressor according to Claim 4, wherein the screw (26) of the compression section (21) is a single screw.

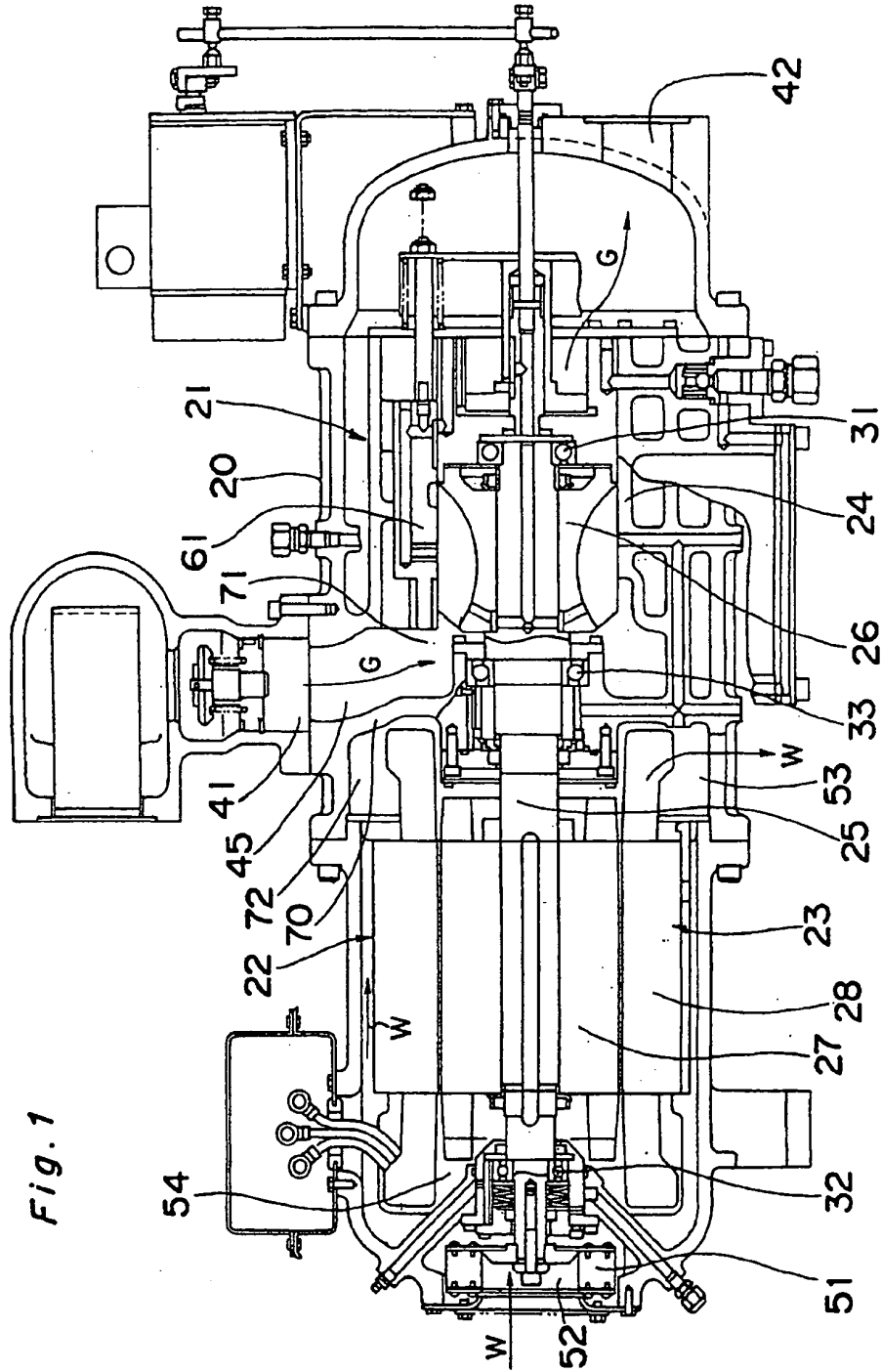
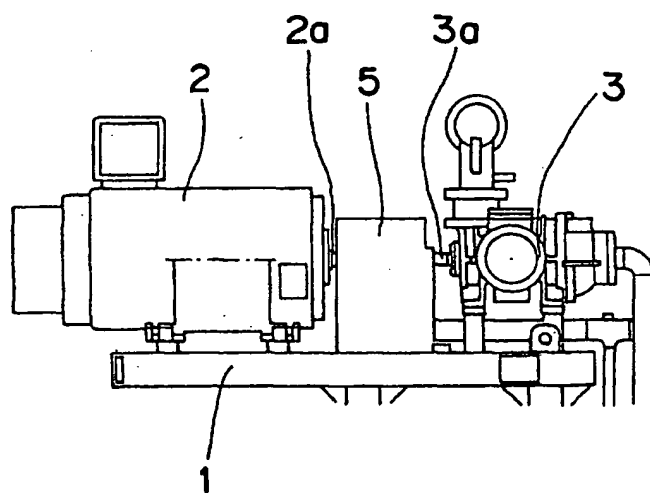


Fig. 2 PRIOR ART



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP01/00511

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int.Cl ⁷ F04C18/16, F04C29/04		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl ⁷ F04C18/16, F04C29/04		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2001 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2001 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2001		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP, 56-165790, A (Hitachi, Ltd.),	1
Y	19 December, 1981 (19.12.81), page 1, lower left column, line 16 to upper right column, line 17; Fig. 1 (Family: none)	2-6
Y	JP, 54-154811, A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 06 December, 1979 (06.12.79), Full text; Fig. 1 (Family: none)	2
Y	JP, 11-13674, A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 19 January, 1999 (19.01.99), Full text; Figs. 1 to 2 (Family: none)	3-6
Y	JP, 64-46489, U (Hitachi, Ltd.), 22 March, 1989 (22.03.89), Full text; drawing (Family: none)	3-6
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 24 April, 2001 (24.04.01)		Date of mailing of the international search report 01 May, 2001 (01.05.01)
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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)